

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

This preliminary amendment is in support to the concurrently filed Rule 1.53(b) Divisional Application of pending U.S. Application Serial Number 09/895,579, which was filed on July 29, 2001. Claims 14-19 are being canceled. New claims 20-27 are added. Applicants submit that the new claims introduce no new matters.

Applicants have amended the Specification to correct typographical errors.

Applicants are respectfully requesting the above amendments prior to the examination of the above-identified application.

In view of the foregoing, favorable consideration and allowance of this application are respectfully solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached at the Costa Mesa office by telephone at (714) 557-3800. All correspondence should continue to be directed to the below-listed address.

***Conclusion***

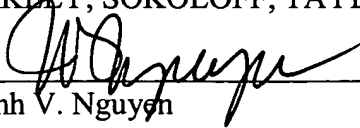
Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: February 6, 2004

By

  
Thinh V. Nguyen

Reg. No. 42,034

Tel.: (714) 557-3800 (Pacific Coast)

12400 Wilshire Boulevard, Seventh Floor  
Los Angeles, California 90025